

U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers

Baltimore District
PN-06-65

Public Notice

In Reply to Application Number
CENAB-OP-RPA (PA DOT – S.R. 0015,
Section C41 Project)06-10863-P12

Comment Period: December 11, 2006 to January 9, 2007

THE PURPOSE OF THIS PUBLIC NOTICE IS TO SOLICIT COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC REGARDING THE WORK DESCRIBED BELOW. NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE AS TO WHETHER OR NOT A PERMIT WILL BE ISSUED AT THIS TIME.

This District has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) as described below:

APPLICANT: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
District 3-0
P.O. Box 218
715 Jordan Avenue
Montoursville, Pennsylvania 17754-0218

LOCATION: On S.R. 0015 between Segment 1650 and Segment 1770 Northbound (approximately 7.0 miles) and between Segment 1591 and 1711 Southbound (approximately 5.5 miles), in Cogan House, Jackson and Lewis Townships, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. The project also includes an interchange with S.R. 184 at Steam Valley and an interchange with Green Mountain Road and Steam Valley Road approximately two miles south of S.R. 184.

WORK: To discharge dredged or fill material into Waters of the United States, including jurisdictional wetlands, associated with the upgrade of S.R. 0015, Section C41 to a limited-access facility which meets current criteria and standards for a 70 mph limited-access roadway, and which is comparable to adjacent sections of S.R. 0015. The proposed project will result in 3,604 linear feet or 24,632 square feet of permanent perennial stream impacts; 40 linear feet or 730 square feet of temporary perennial stream impacts; 2,251 linear feet or 6,881 square feet of permanent intermittent stream impacts; and 2,067 linear feet or 6,881 square feet of permanent ephemeral stream impacts. The project will result in 0.601 acres of permanent wetland impacts and 0.204 acres of temporary impacts. The applicant's stated purpose of the project is to increase safety by providing a better horizontal and vertical alignments that currently do not meet current criteria for highways, improve safety in the future as other sections of S.R. 15 are upgraded and traffic speeds increase, maintain and improve the local and regional economy, address the goals of the Appalachian Regional Development Act and the National Highway System and provide system continuity for the future interstate corridor.

All work will be completed in accordance with the enclosed plan(s). If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Michael Dombroskie at (814) 235-0571.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonable may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors, which may

be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economic, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity. Written comments concerning the work described above related to the factors listed above or other pertinent factors must be received by the District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, State College Field Office, 1631 South Atherton Street, Suite 102, State College, Pennsylvania 16801, with the comment period specified above.

The applicant is required to obtain a water quality certification in accordance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection through the issuance of a Section 105 permit or through direct application to the Regional Office in the area of the proposed project. The Section 404 certifying agency has a statutory limit of one year in which to make its decision.

The applicant must obtain any State or local government permits which may be required.

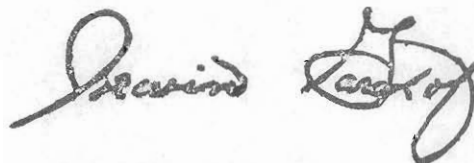
A preliminary review of this application indicates that the proposed work will not affect Federal listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat, pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, as amended. As the evaluation of this application continues, additional information may become available which could modify this preliminary determination.

Review of the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places indicates that no registered properties listed as eligible for inclusion, therein, are located at the site of the proposed work. Currently unknown archeological, scientific, prehistoric, or historical data may be lost or destroyed by the work to be accomplished under the request permit.

The evaluation of the impact of this project on the public interest will include applications of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Any person who has an interest which may be adversely affected by the issuance of this permit may request a public hearing. The request, which must be in writing, must be received by the District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, State College Field office, 1631 South Atherton Street, Suite 102, State College, Pennsylvania 16801, within the comment period as specified above to receive consideration. Also it must clearly set forth the interest which may be adversely affected by this activity and the manner in which the interest may be adversely affected.

It is requested that you communicate this information concerning the proposed work to any persons know by you to be interested and not being known to this office, who did not receive a copy of this notice.

FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER



Irwin Garskof
Chief, Pennsylvania Section

Enclosures

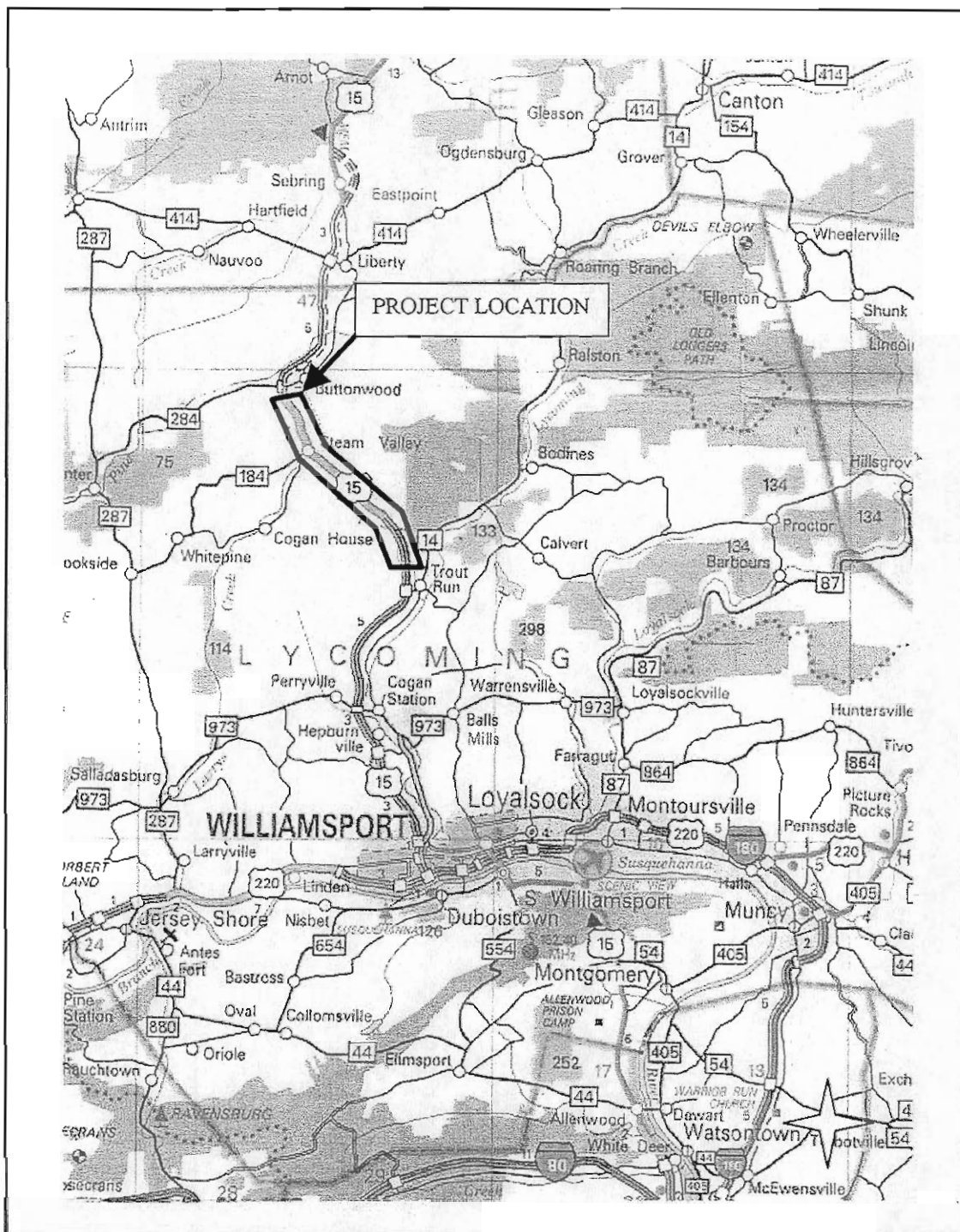


Exhibit 1. Project Location Map.

Source: Pennsylvania Official Transportation and Tourism Map, 1997.

Scale: 1 inch = 6 miles (approximate)

Project Description Narrative

S.R. 15, Section C41 Interchange and Roadway Improvement Project

General Project Information

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PENNDOT), Engineering District 3-0
715 Jordan Avenue, Montoursville, PA 17754.

S.R. 15, Section C41 Interchange and Roadway Improvement Project in Cogan House, Jackson and Lewis Townships, Lycoming County, PA
Baltimore ACOE District.

SWP Subbasins 9A (Pine Creek) and 10A (Susquehanna River)

Trout Run and White Pine, PA Quadrangles: 77° 07' 51" Longitude and 41° 27' 26" Latitude

Structural and Environmental Details

Project Description: PENNDOT proposes to upgrade S.R. 15 between Segment 1650 and Segment 1770 Northbound (approximately 7.0 miles) and between Segment 1591 and 1711 Southbound (approximately 5.5 miles) to a limited-access facility which meets current criteria and standards for a 70 mph limited-access roadway, and which is comparable to adjacent sections of S.R. 15. The project also includes an interchange with S.R. 184 at Steam Valley and an interchange with Green Mountain Road and Steam Valley Road approximately two miles south of S.R. 184. For the purposes of engineering analyses and environmental studies, the proposed project has been separated into four distinct sections within the project study corridor. The following summarizes the characteristics of each section:

- Section 1: Segment 1650 to Segment 1680 Northbound (approximately 3.75 miles long). This section is a two-lane northbound facility on a limited-access right-of-way except for two at-grade intersections with township roads to the east that serve residences and hunting camps. This section ascends Steam Valley Mountain.
- Section 2: Segment 1680 to Segment 1710 Northbound and Segment 1681 to Segment 1711 Southbound (approximately 1.35 miles long) – This section is at the top of Steam Valley Mountain where S.R. 184 intersects S.R. 15 with an at-grade intersection.
- Section 3: Segment 1710 to Segment 1773 Northbound (approximately 1.9 miles long) – This section descends Steam Valley Mountain and traverses the “Old Route 15” alignment.
- Section 4: Segment 1591 to Segment 1681 Southbound (approximately 4.1 miles long) – This section descends Steam Valley Mountain in the southbound direction and is along the “Old Route 15” alignment. Green Mountain Road (GMR) and Steam Valley Road (SVR) intersect S.R. 15 in this section.

Project Purpose and Need: The purpose and need for the project are focused on a combination of interrelated items including geometry, traffic, and safety. The improved highway will increase the safety of the vehicles that traverse this highway for daily, commercial, and recreational use. Below is a summary of the project needs:

- The existing facility's horizontal and vertical alignments do not meet current criteria for highways.
- Section C41 has a history of traveler safety incidents. The project is needed to improve safety in the future as other sections of S.R. 15 are upgraded and traffic speeds increase.
- Maintenance and improvement of the local and regional economy.
- Completion of another major link of the S.R. 15 Corridor as addressed in PENNDOT's Statewide Plan.
- Addressing the goals of the Appalachian Regional Development Act and the National Highway System.
- Provide system continuity for future interstate corridor.

Project Area Description: S.R. 15, Section C41 is located approximately 12 miles north of Williamsport in Lycoming County. Steam Valley Mountain is located approximately in the center of the project area. Forests are the dominant land use within and adjacent to the seven-mile long project area. Two businesses, the Turkey Ranch Restaurant and an associated gas station/convenience store, are located at the top of Steam Valley Mountain, immediately adjacent to southbound S.R. 15. Several roads, both paved and unpaved, intercept existing S.R. 15 at grade within the project area. These roads provide access to homes and hunting cabins located in the area. S.R. 184 intersects existing S.R. 15 at the top of the mountain and heads west toward the village of Brookside. A few active agricultural fields are also located within the project area, mostly near the top of the mountain.

The northbound and southbound gradients of existing S.R. 15 range from 3 to 6 percent within the project area. Existing S.R. 15 follows the valleys of two streams. Both streams are named Steam Valley Run, on the north and south sides of Steam Valley Mountain. Steep mountains and ridges define both sides of the valleys in the east and west directions. Trout Run and numerous unnamed tributaries flow into Steam Valley Run (south). Packhorse Creek and several unnamed tributaries flow into Steam Valley Run (north).

Project Impacts and Regulated Activities: Approximately 85 linear feet (26 meters) or 1,241ft² (113m²) of Steam Valley Run South will be permanently impacted by a replacement culvert along the T-623 crossover between the northbound and southbound lanes of S.R. 15, Section C41. The existing enclosure is 224 linear feet (68 meters).

Approximately 1,600 linear feet (486 meters) or 37,768ft² (3,489m²) of Steam Valley Run South will be permanently relocated in the Reeder Hollow area between the northbound and southbound lanes of S.R. 15, Section C41. This work will result in a stream length loss of 79 linear feet (24 meters). Steam Valley Run (South) is a perennial stream, classified as a HQ-CWF. Approximately 455 linear feet (139 meters) or 4,096ft² (381m²) of Steam Valley Run (North) will be permanently impacted by a stream enclosure along the new northbound alignment of S.R. 15, Section C41. Steam Valley Run (North) is a perennial stream, classified as a Cold Water Fishery (CWF). Approximately 232 linear

feet (71 meters) or 2,893ft² (267m²) of Packhorse Run will be permanently impacted by a stream enclosure along the new northbound alignment of S.R. 15, Section C41. Packhorse Creek is a perennial stream, classified as a CWF. Additional permanent impacts include 12 unnamed perennial streams, ten intermittent streams and ten ephemeral streams.

The project will result in 0.601 acres (2,434m²) of permanent wetland impacts and 0.204 acres (827m²) of temporary wetland impacts. Wetlands PEM 21, PEM 22, PEM 28, PEM 30, PEM 31, PEM 103, PEM 115, PSS/PEM 130, PEM/PSS 136 and PEM 142 will be permanently impacted by project activities. Temporary impacts will affect wetlands PEM 28, PEM 103, PEM 116, PSS/PEM 130, PEM 133 and PEM/PSS 136.

Impact Summary

The proposed project will result in 3,604 linear feet (1,098 meters) or 24,632 ft² (2,295m²) of permanent perennial stream impacts; 40 linear feet (12 meters) or 730ft² (69m²) of temporary perennial stream impacts; 2,251 linear feet (686 meters) or 6,881 ft² (640m²) of permanent intermittent stream impacts; and 2,067 linear feet (630 meters) or 6,881 ft² (638m²) of permanent ephemeral stream impacts. The project will result in 0.601 acres (2,434m²) of permanent wetland impacts and 0.204 acres (827m²) of temporary wetland impacts.

Table 1. List of Regulated Activities for the S.R. 15, Section C41 Interchange and Roadway Improvement Project, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania

Regulated Activity	Water of the U.S./Commonwealth	Sheet	Station	Average Width	Length (ft)	Length (m)	Area (ft ²)	Area (acre)	Area (m ²)	Impact Description
1	I-44	13	116+50	3	367.096	111.891	1101.287	0.025	102.313	Permanent impact (fill) to intermittent stream (I-44)
2	PEM 142	13	120+25				901.838	0.021	83.783	Permanent encroachment (fill) to wetland (PEM 142)
3	I-3	13	120+75	3	48.039	14.642	144.116	0.003	13.389	Permanent impact (fill) to intermittent stream (I-3)
4	P-3	17	154+90	11	185.000	56.400	2035.000	0.047	198.000	Permanent impact (stream enclosure) to perennial stream (P-3)
5	PEM 31	19	157+20				229.651	0.005	21.335	Permanent encroachment (fill and/or dewatering) to wetland (PEM 31)
6	PEM 30	19	158+00				955.240	0.022	88.745	Permanent encroachment (fill and/or dewatering) to wetland (PEM 30)
7	PEM 21	25	206+50				348.201	0.008	32.349	Permanent encroachment (fill) to wetland (PEM 21)
8	E-1	25	206+70	3	360.125	109.766	1080.375	0.025	100.370	Permanent impact (fill) to ephemeral stream (E-1)
9	PEM 22	25	207+10				519.823	0.012	48.293	Permanent encroachment (fill) to wetland (PEM 22)
10	E-2	25	210+15	3	285.831	87.121	857.493	0.020	79.664	Permanent impact (fill) to ephemeral stream (E-2)
11	P-4	25 & 27	212+85	3	363.926	110.974	1091.777	0.025	101.429	Permanent impact (stream enclosure) to perennial stream (P-4)
12	P-5	27	219+50	7	457.760	139.525	3385.320	0.078	315.652	Permanent impact (stream enclosure) to perennial stream (P-5)
13	P-2	35 & 36	73+80	15	84.671	25.808	1241.300	0.028	113.311	Permanent impact (stream enclosure) to perennial stream (P-2)
14	P-9	35	26+60	6.5	75.237	22.932	489.038	0.011	45.433	Permanent impact (stream enclosure) to perennial stream (P-9)
15	P-9	37	83+50	11	161.523	49.232	1776.750	0.041	165.920	Permanent impact (stream enclosure) to perennial stream (P-9)
16	P-12	38	32+10	10	60.000	18.288	600.000	0.014	55.742	Permanent impact (stream enclosure) to perennial stream (P-12)
17	PEM 103	38	32+15				1219.930	0.028	113.311	Permanent encroachment (fill) to wetland (PEM 103)
18	P-10	39, 40 & 41	281+75	4.5	563.401	171.725	2535.305	0.058	235.538	Permanent impact (stream enclosure) to perennial stream (P-10)
19	E-8	47	313+15	3	391.606	119.362	1174.818	0.027	109.144	Permanent impact (fill) to ephemeral stream (E-8)
20	E-9	47	319+70	3	234.745	71.550	704.234	0.016	65.425	Permanent impact (stream enclosure) to ephemeral stream (E-9)
21	E-10	47	323+00	3	153.730	46.857	461.191	0.011	42.846	Permanent impact (stream enclosure) to ephemeral stream (E-10)
22	P-13	46	313+50	6	83.123	25.336	498.735	0.011	46.334	Permanent impact (stream enclosure) to perennial stream (P-13)
23	P-14	46 & 48	324+80	3	136.878	41.720	410.633	0.009	38.149	Permanent impact (stream enclosure) to perennial stream (P-14)
24	P-15	48	327+10	3	157.642	48.049	472.927	0.011	43.936	Permanent impact (fill) to ephemeral stream (E-13)
25	E-13	49	332+80	3	76.950	23.454	230.850	0.005	21.447	Permanent impact (fill) to ephemeral stream (E-13)
26	E-14	49	336+60	3	185.500	56.540	556.500	0.013	51.701	Permanent impact (stream enclosure) to ephemeral stream (E-14)
27	I-19	48	333+50	3	181.163	55.218	543.488	0.012	50.492	Permanent impact (fill) to intermittent stream (I-19)
28	E-15	48	336+00	3	145.887	44.466	437.662	0.010	40.660	Permanent impact (fill) to ephemeral stream (E-15)
29	I-21	50	20+00	3	250.971	76.496	752.913	0.017	67.080	Permanent impact (fill) to intermittent stream (I-21)
30	PEM 116	50	14+40				71.598	0.002	6.652	Temporary encroachment (silt fence) to wetland (PEM 116)
31	P-16	50	22+00	3	85.603	26.092	256.810	0.006	23.858	Permanent impact (fill) to perennial stream (P-16)
32	E-17	52	11+70	3	62.900	19.172	188.700	0.004	16.183	Permanent impact (fill) to ephemeral stream (E-17)
33	PSS/PEM 130	55 & 56	380+50				1037.474	0.024	96.384	Permanent encroachment (fill) to wetland (PSS/PEM 130)
34	PSS/PEM 130	55 & 56	380+25				590.700	0.014	56.656	Temporary encroachment (silt fence) to wetland (PSS/PEM 130)
35	P-17	55 & 56	380+50	3	44.046	13.425	132.139	0.003	12.276	Permanent impact (stream enclosure) to perennial stream (P-17)
36	I-26	56	387+20	3	22.169	6.757	66.508	0.002	6.179	Permanent impact (fill) to intermittent stream (I-26)
37	P-18	56	382+75	9	455.115	138.719	4096.035	0.094	380.534	Permanent impact (stream enclosure) to perennial stream, Steam Valley Run North (P-18)
38	PEM 28	56	384+75				1469.023	0.034	136.477	Temporary encroachment (silt fence) to wetland (PEM 28)
39	PEM 28	56	384+75				647.398	0.015	60.145	Permanent encroachment (fill) to wetland (PEM 28)

Table 1. List of Regulated Activities for the S.R. 15, Section C41 Interchange and Roadway Improvement Project, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania (continued)

Regulated Activity	Water of the U.S./Commonwealth	Sheet	Station	Average Width	Length (ft)	Length (m)	Area (ft ²)	Area (acre)	Area (m ²)	Impact Description
40	PEM 133	56	393+50				812,680	0.019	76,890	Temporary encroachment (silt fence) to wetland (PEM 133)
41	E-18	57	409+90	7	169,891	51,783	1,189,237	0.027	110,484	Permanent impact (stream enclosure) to ephemeral stream (E-18)
42	I-35	59	427+50	4	126,840	38,661	507,360	0.012	48,562	Permanent impact (fill) to intermittent stream (I-35)
43	I-34	58 & 59	426+00	3	237,000	72,238	711,000	0.016	66,054	Permanent impact (fill) to intermittent stream (I-34)
44	P-22	59	427+75	3	101,340	30,888	304,020	0.007	28,328	Permanent impact (stream enclosure) to perennial stream (P-22)
45	I-39	61	445+25	3	242,890	74,033	728,671	0.017	67,696	Permanent impact (fill) to intermittent stream (I-39)
46	I-40	61	448+90	3	680,538	207,428	2,041,614	0.047	189,672	Permanent impact (fill) to intermittent stream (I-40)
47	I-42	61	454+10	3	94,700	28,865	284,100	0.007	28,328	Permanent impact (fill) to intermittent stream (I-42)
48	P-25	63	463+10	12	231,965	70,703	2893,360	0.066	267,091	Permanent impact (stream enclosure) to perennial stream, Packhorse Run (P-25)
49	PEM/PSS 136	63 & 64	469+80				1,797,070	0.412	1,667,292	Permanent encroachment (fill) to wetland (PEM/PSS 136)
50	PEM/PSS 136	64	471+50				5670,580	0.130	526,087	Temporary encroachment (silt fence) to wetland (PEM/PSS 136)
51	PEM 115	48	334+00				2392,800	0.055	222,575	Permanent encroachment to wetland (PEM 115)
52	P-2	48	334+20	3	277,760	84,661	833,280	0.019	77,414	Wetland will be incorporated into Permanent Basin No. 42
53	P-2	17 & 19	156+70	20	59,000	17,933	1,180,000	0.027	109,017	Permanent impact to perennial stream, Steam Valley Run South (P-2)
54	P-2	18 & 19	164+60	20	8,000	2,432	160,000	0.004	14,782	Stream relocation, 696' of perennial stream, Steam Valley Run South (P-2)
55	P-2	18, 19, 20 & 21	170+40	20	12,000	3,647	240,000	0.005	22,173	Stream relocation, 353' of perennial stream, Steam Valley Run South (P-2)
56	P-2	18 & 19	160+50	16	20,074	6,119	328,720	0.008	32,375	Temporary impact (road crossing) to perennial stream, Steam Valley Run South (P-2)
57	P-18	65	498+70	20	20,074	6,119	401,480	0.009	36,421	Temporary impact (road crossing) to perennial stream, Steam Valley Run North (P-18)
58	PEM-103	38	280+80				280,600	0.006	24,281	Temporary encroachment (silt fence) to wetland (PEM 103)

Summary of Impacts

Total 10 permanent wetland impacts = 0.601 acres (2,434,212 m²)Total 6 temporary wetland impacts = 0.204 acres (827,043 m²)Total 20 permanent perennial stream impacts = 3,603,989 linear feet (1,098,439 m) or 24,632,428 ft² (2,294,917 m²)Total 10 permanent intermittent stream impacts = 2,251,406 linear feet (686,229 m) or 6,881,058 ft² (639,765 m²)Total 10 permanent ephemeral stream impacts = 2,067,165 linear feet (630,071 m) or 6,881,060 ft² (637,924 m²)Total 2 temporary perennial stream impacts = 40,148 linear feet (12,238 m) or 730,200 ft² (68,796 m²)